

## **“Soaring Like Eagles, part 2”**

**by Marli Spieker**

I have been looking forward to this second part of our talk about eagles. The Bible mentions the eagle 38 times. This King of the Birds is an example of how God deals with us. For those who know and trust God from their heart He promises that they will soar high like eagles. As Mama eagle teaches her eaglets to fly by taking away the security of their nest, so God stretches our faith by allowing trials and difficulties into our lives. But it is very important for us to rely on Him no matter what, so we are not crushed by our circumstances. Let me read to you what the Bible promises us: “They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint (Isaiah 40:31).”

Last week we talked about how an eaglet learns to fly. After its birth the eaglet only sleeps and eats, but when it has already grown little wings Mama eagle makes the nest uncomfortable so the little eaglet will get out and learn to fly. This is a very scary process. But she keeps a careful watch on the little eaglet and if it starts to fall, she swoops down to pick it up so it won't get hurt. This is a learning process. Finally, the little eaglet learns to fly, up high in the sky just like its Mother! It can then face life on its own.

Today I want to speak about how eagles master the wind, renew their strength and deal with sickness and death. We all know that Eagles don't live in the low land as other birds do. They are created to fly in the high places. They can fly so high that they cannot be seen by the naked human eye, or reached by the hunter's rifle. You see, God made us humans also to fly in high places. We don't need to live a miserable life without hope, filled with fear and despair. Our mind can be renewed as we understand God's purposes for each one of us. We can become free from the control of destructive thinking and behaving. God wants us to be pure and holy, and become like His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. When eagles are free they are the cleanest of birds. But when they are in captivity they are the dirtiest. When we are free and live in close fellowship with God, we will reflect His character. We will refuse to give in to evil thoughts, to lies, to hopelessness, to gossip, to stealing, to wanting someone else's wife or husband, someone else's home, or children, or job, or anything else! Those kinds of thoughts make our souls and hearts dirty, but God's company and fellowship make us clean!

Eagles do not fly, they soar. Instead of using their own strength and flapping their wings as other birds do, they make use of the wind currents to fly high. The eagle sits on its rock and 'reads' the wind. When the time is perfect it takes off and soars upward with its great wings. Without effort, just spreading its wings it soars higher and higher toward the sky.

The Bible refers to the Holy Spirit of God as a wind. We can cooperate with the Holy Spirit as we allow God's word to lift us closer to Jesus. We can't improve our lives by our own effort, but by letting God work in our lives. We are saved by God's grace and we grow and mature in faith by His grace alone.

Eagles go through times of renewal - When eagles reach about 60 years of age, they go through a time of renewal. The eagle looks for a secret place up in the mountains. It starts to claw at its face and to tear out the feathers that have been damaged over the years. As a result it will bleed badly. The eagle will then wait patiently for the rays of the sun to heal it. By going through this process of renewal the eagle gets rid of unnecessary and dead weight and makes place for new growth in its feathers. Otherwise it would not be able to live such a long time – usually up to 120 years old. Like eagles we too sometimes need to go through a process of renewal in our lives in order to rid ourselves of unnecessary dead weight and things that hold us back in our spiritual growth. You see, when God renews us, He cuts off the unfruitful things in us in order to make us more fruitful. Which fruits are we talking about? How about peace, love, joy, goodness, honesty, compassion, self control and much more?

We will begin to understand that the hard times in life, which are very unpleasant and painful, can be used to teach us and change us into better people. Then we will not try to run and escape from suffering. But we will start cooperating with God by believing His word that tells us that, "All things work for the good of those who love Him (Rom 8:28)."

Eagles get sick, just like human beings. When an eagle gets sick, it has no doctor to go to. But it instinctively knows that the sun can bring healing. That's why it simply finds a favorite spot up high in the mountains and just awaits the rays of the sun to heal it.

Isn't it true that when we get sick we try to work out how to make ourselves better? Some people go to the doctor, others use natural medicine, and others try to be tough and just hope it gets better by itself. We should always take proper action and be thankful if we have medical help available when we get sick. But, we should never forget that our heavenly Father knows us and cares for us. He wants us to look to Him in our sickness and trust Him as the one who can heal us. Maybe He has something to teach us through our sickness or suffering. The Bible tells us to learn perseverance and to grow in character through our suffering. As we rely on God in sickness and suffering, His Spirit will fill our hearts with hope. He will reveal Himself to us, and give us, the peaceful assurance that He is with us to take care of us. The Bible says, "The mountains melt like wax before the Lord, before the Lord of all the earth (Ps 97:5)."

Here is more: Every eagle has to die. When an eagle is about to die, it will fly to its favorite spot in the mountains, wrap its wings around itself, look at the sun's rays and die. That's what eagles do!

Let me tell you that a person who knows God can die with dignity and a wonderful hope. The Bible says, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints (Ps 116:15)." This world is not our permanent home.

Therefore Jesus Christ told his disciples in the face of death, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am (Jn 14:1-4)." As the eagle looks to the sun while waiting the moment of its death, so we can look to God when the time comes for us to die. We can die with hope and confidence in His eternal promises. Jesus Christ said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Now you know why I can trust God, and endure the grief and sorrow of having lost my young, handsome 28 year old son, last year, whom I loved so much. I will see him again the day I go to Heaven. He's enjoying God's presence forever and so will I one day. Until that day arrives, I'll be waiting upon my Lord. He promises that I'll soar high like the Eagles. And I know that He is always here close to me - just a prayer away.

I hope you can say the same. If you do not have this assurance, my dear friend, write to us or call this station and talk to us. May God bless and keep you and make you soar high, way above your circumstances and pain.